

REMARKS

The Applicant has carefully considered the arguments presented by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action and, in view of the position enunciated by the Examiner, the pending claims have been extensively amended. Based upon this Amendment, the Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

In amended Claim 1, the cleaning system of the present invention is now defined as comprising a motor constructed for providing a rotational output at a first rotational speed with said rotational output being drivingly engaged with a plurality of gear members and a coupling, said coupling being connected to the elongated shaft/cable for continuously rotating said shaft/cable at the first rotational speed. In addition, the plurality of gear members are defined as receiving and driving the shaft/cable longitudinally in either a forward direction or a rearward direction and being drivingly engaged with a pinion gear which receives its rotational output directly from the motor and is drivingly engaged with the plurality of gear members. Finally, the gear members are defined as receiving the rotation from the pinion gear at the first rotational speed and being constructed for producing a substantially reduced rotation at a second rotational speed. In this way, the rotation of the shaft/cable is substantially

greater than the axial movement speed of the shaft/cable, since the axial movement of the shaft/cable depends upon the rotational output of the gear members.

Based upon this amendment, the Applicant believes that Claim 1 clearly distinguishes the constructions taught in the prior art references upon which the Examiner has relied. In particular, in Grimsley, the rotational speed of the plurality of gear members is substantially equivalent to the rotational speed of the shaft/cable. As a result, the shaft/cable is rotating at the same speed at which the shaft/cable is axially driven into and out of the tubes being cleaned.

Clearly, there is no teaching or suggestion in Grimsley that the rotational speed of the shaft/cable should be substantially greater than the axial movement speed of the shaft/cable. Therefore, the Applicant believes that Claim 1 clearly and unequivocally distinguishes the teaching of Grimsley and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-13, 17 and 20 are dependent upon Claim 1 and add novel combinations thereto. For this reason, as well as the reasons detailed above in reference to Claim 1, the Applicant believes that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

In particular, Claim 2 and Claim 3 define the preferred construction for aligning the gear members to controllably move the shaft/cable in its longitudinal or axial direction. Furthermore, Claim 4 specifically defines the use of the pinion gear for

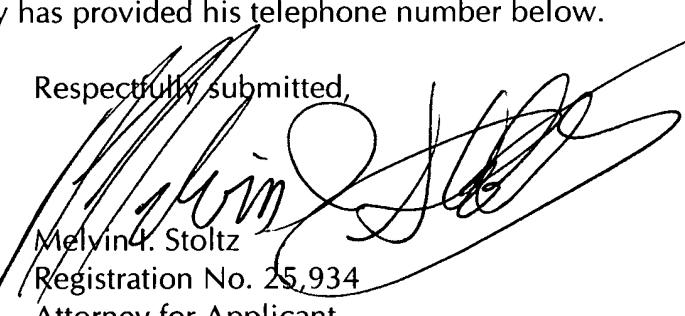
directly driving and controlling the rotational movement of the associated gear members. The Applicant believes that this construction is unique and clearly distinguishable from the cited prior art reference of Grimsley, wherein the rotational movement of the motor is constructed for directly driving the gear assembly, without the use of the pinion gear. By employing the construction of the present invention, a more effective and more reliable construction is realized. In addition, Claims 7 and 8 have now been canceled.

The Applicant has noted the Examiner's indication that Claim 18 contains allowable subject matter. As a result, Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form. As now presented, the Applicant believes that Claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 21 is a newly added claim which specifically defines a unique feature of the present invention which had originally been detailed in the specification. In this regard, one of the unique features in the reliability of the present invention is the incorporation of air feed lines which are mounted in the handle in order to control the axial or longitudinal movement of the shaft/cable. By opening or closing these air feed lines, the operator is able to achieve axial movement of the shaft/cable in either desired direction. In order to specifically define this construction, Claim 21 has been added. The Applicant believes that Claim 21 clearly and unequivocally distinguishes the prior art references and is in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant has submitted herewith amended drawings which have been revised in accordance with the Examiner's request. Applicant believes that these amended drawings overcome the objections raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action.

Based upon the foregoing Amendment and the arguments set out herein, the Applicant believes that the pending claims are now all in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowability is earnestly solicited. If any questions remain which may be resolved in a telephone interview, Applicant's undersigned Attorney would gladly discuss such issues with the Examiner at the Examiner's convenience. For this purpose, Applicant's undersigned Attorney has provided his telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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